

City of Fitchburg Conservation Commission

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2007

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tom Starr, Chairman, Phil Chalifoux, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, John Koutonen

GUEST: Kevin Sanders

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Mike O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Starr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Veteran's Room, First Floor, City Hall.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice of Intent - Brideau, 70 King St., two duplexes (cont'd from 3-27-07)

Dean Brideau & Chris Deloge, Whitman & Bingham present.

Chris - the 6-inch pipe discharging to this site feeds wetland.

If pipe did not discharge onto Brideau parcel, there would be no wetland.

Purpose of water quality swale between dwellings?

Chris to compensate for fill.

If there was no water quality swale, he would still have a slight swale to tie into the storm drain.

Mike D - what is function of the displaced wetland area? Doesn't feel it's significant to the interest of the act.

Tom - Tim will visit site. If no problems will vote on this at June meeting.

Chris they also will be filing with Planning Board for special permit for duplexes.

Tom suggested resurface end of road.

Hearing continued to June 26.

Notice of Intent - City of Fitchburg, Coolidge Park renovations (cont'd from 4-24-07)

Bill Hannigan presented. Letter dated 5-29 submitted addressing items raised such as grass swales. LID, etc.

Tom: cost of project? Ans. \$750,000

Bill: they have to get plans in to State for funding.

Bill: removing fill to three feet below final grade may be OK depending on the geotechnical report.

Construction est. \$600,000 in first phase.

Kevin: should do drainage first

Bill: that's what they're doing, then do the other work (driveway)

Mike D: use old pool on site as detention basin?

Bill: no because it's in floodplain - where would storage be?

Tom S: flooding problem doesn't agree b/c long time user of park. How often is park flooded?

Bill: project falls under "redevelopment". The existing stone culvert is a maintenance issue. It needs to be fixed. Options are fix or replace -- replacing is more cost-effective.

Re: fill in area of test pits. How much solid waste do you have to remove per regs?
How much solid waste do you have to remove to get a stable base?

Mike D. advocates the permeable pavement because it's not plowed in winter.

Tom: lots of unknowns. Doesn't want to approve w/o final plans, w/o geo-tech info.

Info wanted:

geotechnical info

Soil boring data (Kevin will compile list of info wanted & forward it.)

John Ricciutti, Parks Board - the Parks Master Plan states that many parks have poor drainage. The #3 softball field does get washed out after many rains, run-off flows thru the field, makes ruts.

Mike D. - supports alleviating poor drainage in field. Concerned with silt being deposited in brook.
Was hoping LID would be addressed.

suggestion: install Vortech unit at end of pipe?

Bill: would need a series of them.

Hearing continued to June 26.

Emergency work- Coolidge Park erosion

Denis Meunier, DPW Commissioner - proposing work to stabilize badly eroded area of Baker Brook.

Recent storms have eroded bank next to walking path.

DPW can get 12-inch stone delivered to site for free. Propose to use stone to stabilize banking.

What other approvals necessary?

They will run by ACOE & DEP.

Discussion about whether to fill in to the old stone wall or taking it down stone wall & rip-rap the slope adjacent to walking path.

Consensus: rip-rap at 3:1 slope OK
 take out old stone wall
 clean out sand, stone & vegetation that has been deposited in middle.

Notice of Intent - Bingham, 374 Fisher Rd., three driveways & dwellings (cont'd from 4-24-07)

Chris Deloge present. Site visit was 5-12-07.

Commission reviewed Tim's report. Much of Lot 1 is wet but non jurisdictional.

Hearing closed.

Vote 5-0 to approve Order of Conditions. Special conditions include cleaning out drainage ditch as discussed on site walk.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Edgewater Devel., Valley St. (cont'd from 4-24-07)

Atty. Watts, Hosea Ketola of Edgewater & Ken Kalinowski, Marsden Engineering present. They jetted & camera'd drain line & found lots of tree roots blocking line. Site has already dried up from jetting the lines. They propose to replace entire structure, rather than try to repair. They think that if line is replaced, there will not be standing water.

Area of isolated wetland is approx. 200-300 s.f.

Public comment:

Les Perrault, Canton St. -- area was wetland before because they needed to drain. It hasn't been maintained & now has standing water.

Commission reviewed Tim's earlier memo which described process to prove area is not an ILSF. Options: vote that it's not subject to protection, or have them do drainage work & then see if the area is ILSF.

Consensus of Commission was to allow them to replace drain line and see what happens. Hearing continued to August meeting, (it was later agreed to move up to July 31).

Notice of Intent - Viola, Mt. Elam Rd., dwelling (cont'd from 4-24-07)

M/M Viola present. Had revised plans by Trowbridge Engineering -- slightly smaller footprint, more of a setback to wetlands.

Commission read Tim Smith's memo. No objection to standard order of conditions. Wetland doesn't appear to significantly contribute to the interests protected by the act. Silt fencing with no hay bales should be OK.

Discussed example of address sign at Mt Elam Road & this right-of-way for the 3-4 houses on it. Fire Dept. thinks that is good idea

Hearing closed.

Vote 5-0 to approve Order of Conditions, with special conditions as discussed.

Notice of Intent - Wachusett Devel. - 41 Sheldon St., building trade shops (cont'd from 4-24-07)

No one present so hearing continued to June meeting.

Notice of Intent - Seney, Lots 3, 4, 5 Ashby State Rd., three driveways (cont'd from 4-24-07)

Steve Seney present.

Commission read Tim's report. Lots 3, 4 & 5 are clearly upland and contain no wetland vegetation or hydric soils. He asked if driveways would be paved, could driveway on Lot 5 be less straight.

Seney answered: driveways will be paved, wants to keep straight driveway.

Hearing closed

Vote 5-0 to approve Order of Conditions.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Narbone, 0 Shea St.

Commission read Tim's report: "ditch has a defined channel and is hydraulically connected to an up-gradient bordering vegetated wetland. Because of these characteristics and the fact that the channel flows for part of the year, the ditch meets the definition of an intermittent stream and the Commission has jurisdiction over the resource area."

Applicant would need to file for any work within the 100 foot buffer zone. Applicants have no plans at present for a house location

Vote: 5-0 to issue a Positive Determination of Applicability.

Notice of Intent - Universal Machine, 323 Princeton Road, expand driveway & parking area

Chris Deloge, Jess Ouellette of Universal Machine and Atty. Watts present.

Commission wants site visit - will set up a time & notify applicant.

Kevin: suggest putting up silt fence now since working on site already

Infiltration possible on site? Chris will look into.

Total amount of impervious area decreases compared to when building at 299 Princeton Rd. was there.

Concrete pad has been removed.

Notice of Intent - 80 & 100 Erdman Way LLC expand parking area

Chris Deloge and Tim Norton, applicant presented plan.

Discussion of both sites. They're proposing to stabilize access road at rear of site and provide water quality drainage swale.

Agreed to have Tim check out both sites.

Rain garden will infiltrate runoff from parking area.

No snow storage near rain garden.

Hearing continued to June meeting.

OTHER ITEMSQuarry Lane/Wall St./Amiott St. drainage

Chris Deloge said they are working on plans for this for Bob Donell for this.

Commission reviewed "Unilateral Administrative Order" issued by DEP to Donell on 5-22-07.

Extension Permits

Two Extension Permits signed - Chamberlain Hill for 2 years, Bridle Cross Estates for 3 years.

Certificated of Compliance

Two signed -- 70 & 74 Billings Road.

Edgewater Construction - Rindge Rd.

Hosea Ketola & Ken Kalinowski presented several informal development plans for development on 7 lots on Rindge Rd recently purchased by Edgewater. Last one was five duplexes which would be done as a condo development. Would not cut into hillside any more.

Commission said site had a long history of site.

96 Alpine Rd.

Update on remediation of home heating oil tank spill.

local local wetlands by-law

MD & Kevin said he is working on draft local wetlands protection ordinance. Used MACC model by-law as basis. More restrictive than wetlands protection act:

- \$300 fine for noncompliance
- buffers
- 25-foot no build area, with possibility of variance.

To be discussed at June meeting. Would need to be submitted as petition.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

Next meeting: June 26, 2007

approved: 9-24-07